

REMARKS

In response to the office action dated 5 June 2006, the applicant requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks. Claims 14-34 and 37-45 are pending in the application. Claims 14-34, 44, and 45 are allowed. Claims 37, 38, and 41 were rejected, and claims 39-40 and 42-43 were objected to. Claims 38-40, 42, and 43 will be amended and claims 37 and 41 will be canceled upon entry of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The office action indicated that claims 14-34 and 44-45 are allowed. The office action also indicated that claims 39-40 and 42-43 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Interview Summary

The applicant thanks Examiner Toniae M. Thomas for the telephone interview granted on Wednesday, August 30, 2006, between herself and the applicant's representative Mr. Mates (Reg. No. 35,271). Examiner Thomas agreed to withdraw Wang et al. (U.S. 6,610,559 B2, Wang) as an applied reference.

Rejections of Claims Under §103

Claims 37 and 41 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Master (U.S. 6,229,207 B1) in view of Bronson et al. (U.S. 5,288,944, Bronson). The applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 37 and 41 will be canceled upon entry of the present amendment to moot the rejection and obtain a notice of allowance. The applicant respectfully submits that canceled claims 37 and 41 are not shown or suggested by the prior art, and reserves the right to prosecute the inventions of claims 37 and 41 in a continuing application.

Claim 38 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Master in view of Bronson and Wang. The applicant respectfully traverses.

The applicant respectfully submits that Wang is not prior art. Wang issued on August 26, 2003 from an application filed November 16, 2001, which is after the 27 September 2001 filing date of the parent of the present application.

During the above-mentioned interview Examiner Thomas agreed to withdraw Wang as an applied reference.

The applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 38 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney at 612-373-6973 to discuss any questions which may remain with respect to the present application.

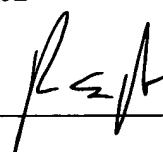
If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,
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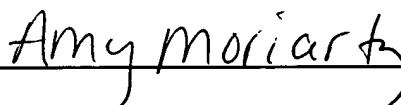
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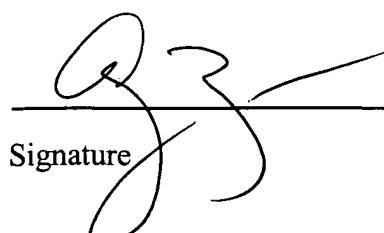
Robert E. Mates
Reg. No. 35,271



Name



Signature



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 5th day of September 2006.